

COMMENDING THE LUBOML  
EXHIBITION PROJECT

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and call attention to a project of passion and nobility, a project dedicated to the preservation of a world lost to us. It was a world of happiness and light. A world of families and children, of community and spirituality. It was the world of the Polish town of Luboml. In 1942, it was from this Earth untimely ripped—destroyed by an evil that marched across Europe leaving death in its path. More than 4,000 members of Luboml's Jewish population were killed by the Nazi barbarians. Only 51 survived.

Now, thanks to the efforts of a New York businessman, Aaron Ziegelman, we are able to get a glimpse of this lost world. Mr. Ziegelman, who was born in Luboml, came to this country in 1938 at the age of 10. When he, his mother, and his sister left for America, more than 50 residents of the town came out to bid them farewell; only one of those residents survived the Holocaust. Mr. Ziegelman has made it his mission to keep alive the memory of those who perished: the memory not only of their deaths, but of their lives.

In 1994, Mr. Ziegelman initiated the Luboml Exhibition Project. So far, the project has collected nearly 2,000 photographs and artifacts from more than 100 families and from archives from around the world. These include a hand-embroidered matzo cover; a photograph of three young girls smiling for the camera; a picture of Luboml's bustling market day; a group portrait of the "Luboml bicycling club"; a school identification card; a photo of an ice skating party. As Mr. Ziegelman said, "Before they were victims, they were people," and therein lies the deepest sense of tragedy.

Seeing life breathed into this perished world, one cannot help thinking of the hundreds, or even thousands, of towns just like Luboml. Towns where families were torn apart, where children were not allowed to grow into adults, where vibrant lives were cut short. Considering Luboml, this quintessential 20th-Century tragedy once again takes on a more concrete, more personal resonance. Thanks to the work of Mr. Ziegelman, we are once again reminded of the fundamental belief we are voicing when we say, "Never Again."

ON THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE A.J. MCCLUNG YMCA CHAPTER  
COLUMBUS, GA

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 21, 1997, the citizens of Columbus, GA will celebrate 96 years of service provided by the A.J. McClung Chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association. They will gather to honor an institution that was founded in 1901 and is recognized as the oldest serving minority YMCA in the Nation. Also, they will honor the man for which it was later named—

Arthur J. McClung, mayor pro tem, city Columbus and the longest serving director of the branch.

This is an institution rich in history. Originally known as the Ninth Street Branch YMCA, it was founded through the efforts of a small prayer group led by Mr. W.E. Clark, Mr. S.W. Yarbrough, Prof. S.R. Marshall, and Dr. R.H. Cobb. Professor Marshall and Dr. Cobb both served terms as chairman of the board of management during its early years. The variety of activities and the number of boys and young men served rapidly outgrew the original small frame building on Ninth Street.

In 1907, two prominent Columbus brothers, George Foster Peabody and Royal Canfield Peabody, provided the funds to build a then-modern facility that included a dormitory, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, game room, cafeteria, and office space. In 1925 the Army and Navy YMCA of Fort Benning and local citizens contributed funds to make additional improvements to the facility. Mr. Booker T. Washington was the guest speaker at the dedication which also featured renowned soloist Gertrude "Ma" Rainey.

After many years of service to the community, the Ninth Street YMCA Branch was destroyed when the roof collapsed from a rare Columbus snow storm. While a new facility was being built, Dr. S.P. Charleston generously provided a building he owned on Shepherd Drive to continue the mission of service provided by the YMCA.

On Sunday, November 21, 1965, the new facility was dedicated as the Brookhaven Boulevard Branch YMCA. In 1978 the facility was renamed in honor of Arthur J. McClung who provided years of leadership and service to the YMCA and the community as a whole. In 1986, the board of managers elected to become an independent association known as the A.J. McClung Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.

There have been many changes throughout the years—facilities, locations, programs, board members and executive directors—but the primary mission and purpose of the A.J. McClung YMCA has remained constant. And that is to improve the quality of life of all people. In addition to its exercise and recreational facilities, the A.J. McClung YMCA provides programs seeking to prevent heart disease, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, AIDS, school dropouts, and youth unemployment. The institution also promotes positive attitudes and values among young people.

The citizens of Columbus and Fort Benning, GA and Phenix City, AL have given generously of their time and energies to the A.J. McClung YMCA over its 96 year history. I would like to recognize the fine men who have served as chairman of the board of management. They include: Dr. E.H. Mayer, 1901–02; Prof. S.R. Marshall, 1903–04; Dr. R.H. Cobb, 1905–09; Dr. E.J. Turner 1909–12; Prof. M.H. Spencer 1912–14; Dr. R.H. Cobb, 1914–22; Dr. M.L. Taylor, 1922–25; Dr. E.J. Turner, 1925–26; Dr. R.H. Cobb, 1926–30; Dr. F. Coffee, 1930–32; Prof. F.R. Lampkin, 1939–45; Mr. M.R. Ashworth, 1945–52; Mr. Steve Knight, 1952–53; Mr. Sandy D. Allen, 1953–60; Atty. Albert W. Thompson, 1961–69; Mr. Samuel Byrd, 1970–71; Mr. Lorenzo Manns, 1972–80; Dr. Henry L. Cook, 1981–83; Mr. Robert L. Anderson, 1984–87; Mr. Scott Wise, 1987–89; Mr. Spurgeon A. Glenn, Jr., 1989–90; Mr. Robert L. Anderson, 1990–92; Mr. James Walker, 1992–present.

I also want to recognize those fine individuals who have served as director of the institution. They include A.Z. Kelsey, A.G. Randall, Joseph Allen, T.B. Neely, R.D. Kelsey, G.F. Rivers, J.L. Johnson, Henry Byrd, H.R. Williams, Joseph Rholta, L.J. Johnson, K.D. Reddick, H.R. Williams, O.R. Bryant, E.E. Farley, D.D. Moody, Theodore Rutherford, G.F. Rivers, W.S. Douglass, W.R. Bennett, Jr., Arthur J. McClung, W.T.L. Vann, Wane A. Hailes, and Ira Flowers, the present director.

Mr. Speaker, I join in congratulating the A.J. McClung Young Men's Christian Association Chapter on its 96 years of service to the communities of Columbus, Fort Benning, and Phenix City. Also, I salute the dedication and contributions of Mayor Pro Tem Arthur J. McClung to the citizens of Columbus and the YMCA named in his honor. I wish them all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE NASH

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 5, 1997*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the United States was founded under the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all. Throughout our history, everyday citizens have become our heroes while they worked to protect our inalienable rights. Mike Nash, an advocate for Vietnam veterans, was one of those heroes. On May 25, 1997, Mike Nash died, but his legacy will live throughout the ages.

Mike Nash was a decorated U.S. Army veteran who fought for his country in Vietnam from 1969 through 1970. His experience in Vietnam forever changed his life. In 1987, Mike joined Chapter 154 of the Vietnam Veterans of America and served the organization at the national level and local level. His calm demeanor and tenacious spirit made him a driving force in the fight for veterans causes.

As a prominent member of the Michigan and national chapters of Vietnam Veterans of America, Mike spent his free time counseling veterans and working to find veterans who were missing in action in Vietnam. Last year Mike traveled to Vietnam to search for information on MIA's. As Mike once said, "As long as proof remains that even one MIA is still alive, we will try to find him." His passion to find missing veterans was fueled by the completeness of his family. He was so thankful to be with his wife, June and their two daughters, Jacquelyn, and Jessica. He hoped that someday, missing veterans would one day be reunited with their loved ones.

Mike Nash was a tireless advocate for Vietnam Veterans: to all who knew him, a friend; to June, Jacquelyn, and Jessica, he was a husband and father. Mike lived his life caring and serving other people. I am honored to have had the opportunity to call Mike my friend. We will all miss Mike's advocacy for Vietnam Veterans, but most of all we will miss his friendship.